



Australian Government

ACMSPE317 Provide general care of domestic cats

Release: 1

ACMSPE317 Provide general care of domestic cats

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify domestic cats and their behavioural and physical needs, and provide daily care requirements.

This unit applies to individuals working in the animal care industry where domestic cats are bred, reared, trained, cared for or housed.

This may include animal shelters, pet shops, catteries, or grooming establishments or similar workplaces. This unit applies to individuals who work under broad supervision and provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable problems.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Species Specific (SPE)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Identify common cat breeds	1.1 Define the breed characteristics of domestic cats commonly cared for within the facility 1.2 Identify and describe physical characteristics using industry

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	terminology 1.3 Identify cats according to industry classification and terminology 1.4 Define, interpret and document breed, colours, markings and other identifying features
2. Identify and evaluate behavioural and housing needs	2.1 Identify indicators of animal comfort and normal behaviour 2.2 Recognise signs of distress and report to supervisor 2.3 Identify industry standards and guidelines for housing design, environmental factors and appropriate stocking densities 2.4 Assess current animal housing design in relation to the welfare of the animals kept and legislation requirements 2.5 Identify behavioural enrichment activities for specific cat
3. Handle and restrain cats	3.1 Identify workplace health and safety risks associated with handling and restraining cats. 3.2 Implement methods to minimise safety risks and use appropriate personal protective equipment 3.3 Select and use humane equipment to restrain and handle cats according to current scientifically validated approaches 3.4 Approach and restrain cats safely using low stress handling techniques to minimise risks to the animal and others
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of good health in cats 4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor 4.3 Identify general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures and implement in line with level of job responsibility
5. Feed cats	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to cat-specific feeding routines and diets 5.2 Identify preferred sources of food and assess samples for quality and suitability 5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control options 5.4 Prepare food in accordance with dietary needs 5.5 Distribute food and water according to schedule, feeding plan or animal requirements

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
6. Maintain records	6.1 Complete feed and treatment records noting food consumption, health and care activities 6.2 Report abnormalities to supervisor 6.3 Complete documentation relevant to licences and transport, where required

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Reading	Interpret key information and quantities specified on product labels
Numeracy	Measure quantities of food and/or health treatments accurately

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMSPE317 Provide general care of domestic cats	ACMSPE305 Provide basic care of domestic cats	Title changed Minor changes for clarity to performance criteria and assessment requirements	Equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>

Assessment Requirements for ACMSPE317 Provide general care of domestic cats

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- identified the specific characteristics and needs of domestic cats for three different breeds, covering two different life stages – selected from kitten, adult or senior
- provided general care for a minimum of two domestic cats of different breeds or different life stages, including:
 - demonstrated appropriate restraint and safe, low stress handling techniques
 - evaluated appropriate housing to ensure the welfare of the animals
 - prepared and provided food
 - assisted with health care needs
 - maintained feed and husbandry records for each cat.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- anatomical structures and physiological features used to identify and classify common cat breeds
- housing, social and activity needs of cats and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for cats
- natural cat behaviour
- behaviour characteristics that can vary according to the breed, age and sex of the animals
- normal behaviour patterns, including:
 - normal feeding, resting, eliminative behaviour
 - activity levels appropriate for age and breed
 - social behaviour towards conspecifics and other species, including humans

- inappropriate or undesirable behaviour, including:
 - changes to expected normal behaviour
 - excessive vocalisation
 - destructive behaviour
 - inappropriate elimination
 - signs of anxiety and distress
- indicators of physical condition and signs of good health in cats
- enrichment needs, including:
 - food or food-related enrichment
 - physical enrichment items
 - social enrichment
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- use of personal protective equipment
- safe, low stress cat handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures
- the principles of animal welfare and basic overview of animal welfare assessment frameworks/models, including the Five Domains
- types and impacts of food in cat diets
- indicators of food quality, including nutritional value, freshness and shelf life, free from spoilage and pests
- types of information reported and recorded in animal care workplaces
- key requirements of Commonwealth and state/territory legislation, licensing and codes of practice related to domestic cats, biosecurity and quarantine, health and safety and animal welfare.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - an animal care workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live domestic cats specified in the performance evidence
 - equipment and resources typically available in an animal care environment, including personal protective equipment
- specifications:
 - organisational policies and procedures, current legislation and relevant codes of practice
- relationships:
 - supervisor.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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